

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method ~~of joining a first device to a radio communications network controlled by a second device without contemporaneous user input of a secret at the second device~~, comprising:
storing in ~~a the second device~~ apparatus which controls access to a radio communications network a secret generated at the second apparatus ~~device~~;
making the stored secret available at ~~a the first apparatus device~~ without contemporaneous user input; and
creating in the ~~first device and in the second apparatus device~~, using the secret, a secret key for use in securing communication between the first and second apparatus devices.
2. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the secret is previously generated at the second apparatus device by user input to the second apparatus device.
3. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stored secret is associated with an operational mode of the second apparatus device.
4. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stored secret is associated with a service provided by the second apparatus device.
5. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method as claimed in claim 1, further

comprising, at the second apparatus device, receiving a signal from the first apparatus device and in response to the received signal, automatically creating without user intervention the secret key.

6. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method as claimed in claim 1, where making the stored secret available at the first apparatus device is without communication in the radio communications network.

7. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein making the stored secret available at the first apparatus device involves user input of the secret to the first apparatus device.

8. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising storing in the second apparatus device an identifier of the first apparatus device and an identifier of the second apparatus device.

9. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ creating the secret key uses a random number communicated between the first and second apparatus devices.

10. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ creating the secret key uses an identifier of one of the first and second apparatus devices, communicated between the first and second apparatus devices, in the creation of the secret key.

11. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
re-using the stored secret to join a third apparatus device to the a radio communications network without contemporaneous user input of a secret at the second apparatus device, comprising:

making the stored secret available at the third apparatus device; and
creating in the third apparatus device and in the second apparatus device, using the
secret, a secret key for securing communication between the third and second
apparatus devices.

12. (Currently amended) A method of ~~joining a plurality of first devices to a radio communications network controlled by a second device~~, comprising:
storing in ~~a~~ the second apparatus device which controls access to a radio
communications network a generated secret at the second apparatus device;
making the stored secret available to each of ~~the~~ at least one or more first
apparatus devices; and creating in the ~~first devices and in the~~ second apparatus
~~device~~, using the secret, at least one secret key for use in securing communication
between the first apparatus devices and the second apparatus device.

13. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the
step of creating at least one secret key comprises:
creating a plurality of secret keys distributed across the first apparatus
~~devices~~ by creating a different secret key at each of the at least one or more
~~plurality of first apparatus devices~~; and creating an identical plurality of secret
keys at the second apparatus device.

14. (Currently amended) An apparatus ~~A device for controlling a radio communications network comprising the device and one or more additional devices,~~
~~the device~~ comprising:
a user interface configured to generate ~~for generating~~ a secret by user input;
a memory configured to store ~~for storing~~ a generated secret for use in securing
communications in ~~a~~ the radio communications network comprising the apparatus
and one or more additional apparatus;
a radio transceiver configured to communicate ~~for communicating~~ in the network;
and

a processor configured to access ~~for accessing~~ the secret stored in the memory and to create ~~for creating~~, using the accessed secret, a secret key for securing communication.

15. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]] The apparatus device~~ as claimed in claim 14, wherein the stored secret is generated by user input using the user interface.

16. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]] The apparatus device~~ as claimed in claim 14, wherein the stored secret is associated with an operational mode of the apparatus device.

17. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]] The apparatus device~~ as claimed in claim 14, wherein the stored secret is associated with a service provided by the apparatus device.

18. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]] The apparatus device~~ as claimed in claim 14, wherein the radio transceiver is operable to receive a signal from any one of ~~the one~~ one or more additional slave apparatus devices and the processor is operable to access the secret in the memory in response to the received signal to ~~and~~ create the secret key.

19. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]] The apparatus device~~ as claimed in claim 18, wherein the processor is operable to automatically create the secret key in response to the received signal.

20. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]] The apparatus device~~ as claimed in claim 18, wherein the stored secret is independent of an ~~the~~ origin of the received signal.

21. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]] The apparatus device~~ as claimed in claim 14, wherein the secret key is dependent upon an ~~the~~ origin of the received signal.

22. (Currently amended) [[A]] The apparatus ~~device~~ as claimed in claim 14, wherein the received signal is a request and the secret key is dependent upon ~~the~~ content of the received request.

23. (Currently amended) The apparatus [[A]] ~~device~~ as claimed in claim 22, wherein the request includes a random value used with at least the stored secret to create the secret key.

24. (Currently amended) The apparatus [[A]] ~~device~~ as claimed in claim 14, wherein the processor is operable in a first mode to obtain a secret by accessing the secret stored in the memory, is operable in a second mode to obtain a secret by enabling user input of data, and is operable in the first mode and in the second mode to create, using the obtained secret, the secret key for securing communication.

25. (Currently amended) The apparatus [[A]] ~~device~~ as claimed in claim 24, wherein the first mode is an interactive gaming mode and second mode is an idle mode.

26. (Currently amended) The apparatus [[A]] ~~device~~ as claimed in claim 14, wherein the memory stores an apparatus ~~a device~~ identifier for use with at least the stored secret to create the secret key.

27. (Currently amended) The apparatus [[A]] ~~device~~ as claimed in claim 14, further comprising a user input apparatus ~~device~~ configured to program for programming the value of the stored secret.

28. (Currently amended) The apparatus [[A]] ~~device~~ as claimed in claim 14, wherein the secret key is for use in securing all communications in the network.

29. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~[[A]] device~~ as claimed in claim 14, wherein the memory is for storing a secret for use in securing communications in the network between the apparatus device and a first additional apparatus device and between the apparatus device and a second additional apparatus device, the processor is configured to access ~~for accessing~~ the secret in the memory and to create ~~for creating~~, using the secret, a first secret key in common with the first additional apparatus device for securing communication between the apparatus device and the first additional apparatus device and a second secret key in common with the second additional apparatus device for securing communication between the apparatus device and the second additional apparatus device.

30. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~[[A]] device~~ as claimed in claim 14, further comprising a user interface configured to enable data entry ~~for entering data~~, wherein when the apparatus device participates in a different network controlled by a different apparatus device the user interface is configured ~~usable~~ to enter a secret stored at the different apparatus device and the processor is operable to create, using the entered secret, a secret key for securing communication.

31-33. (Canceled)

34. (New) An apparatus comprising:
means for storing in a second apparatus which controls access to a radio communications network a secret generated at the second apparatus;
means for making the stored secret available at a first apparatus without contemporaneous user input; and
means for creating in the second apparatus, using the secret, a secret key for use in securing communication between the first and second apparatus.

35. (New) A memory storing a program of computer readable instructions executable by a processor to perform actions directed to securing communication

S.N.: 10/576,975
Art Unit: 2131

between a first and second apparatus, the actions comprising:
storing in a second apparatus which controls access to a radio communications network a secret generated at the second apparatus;
making the stored secret available at a first apparatus without contemporaneous user input; and
creating in the second apparatus, using the secret, a secret key for use in securing communication between the first and second apparatus.